

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method in a communication network, having a network control plane and a connectivity plane, of routing a connectivity plane message to a mobile terminal which can be reached via two or more Media Gateways (MGWs) of the connectivity plane, the method comprising the steps of:

routing the connectivity plane message separately from an associated network control plane message;

determining positional information, that indicates a geographical location of the mobile terminal, by a Mobile Switching Center Server (MSC Server) to which the mobile terminal is attached, and routing information, the routing information being associated with the MSC Server;

based on the positional information, selecting one of the two or more MGWs of the connectivity plane via which the connectivity plane message is to be routed to the mobile terminal; and

and routing the connectivity plane message to the mobile terminal via the selected MGW of the connectivity plane.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the positional information indicates the geographical location of the mobile terminal within an area served by the MSC Server.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a network control plane message is routed via the selected MGW to the MSC Server.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein routing of the connectivity plane message is performed in a communications network that includes a first network portion having a split architecture and a second network portion having a monolithic architecture.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the selected MGW is arranged between the first network portion and the second network portion.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the selected MGW is selected such that resources utilized by the routed connectivity plane message in the first network portion are minimized.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the positional information is included in the routing information.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the positional information is received separately from the routing information.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining, based on the positional information or receiving transmission information, specifying the transmission regime, via which the connectivity plane message is to be routed to the selected MGW.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling the routing of a connectivity plane message to a mobile terminal which can be reached via two or more Media Gateways (MGWs) and which is attached to a Mobile Switching Center Server (MSC Server), the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for routing information;

generating positional information, by the MSC Server to which the mobile terminal is attached, indicating the geographical location of the mobile terminal and routing information associated with the MSC Server to which the mobile terminal is attached;

transmitting a preferred routing using the positional information ~~informational~~; and

choosing one of the two or more MGWs through which the connectivity plane message is routed to the mobile terminal.

11-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A network component, in a communication network comprising a network control plane and a connectivity plane, for routing a connectivity plane message to a mobile terminal attached to the network component and which can be reached via two or more Media Gateways (MGWs) of the connectivity plane, the network component comprising:

- a first interface for receiving a request for routing information, the routing information being associated with a Mobile Switching Center Server (MSC Server) of the network control plane to which the mobile terminal is attached;

- a processing component for generating positional information indicating the geographical location of the mobile terminal, for routing the connectivity plane message to the mobile terminal; and providing routing information associated with the network component; and

- a second interface for transmitting positional information and the routing information for a receiving network switch to select one of the two or more MGWs via which the connectivity plane message is to be routed to the mobile terminal.

16 - 21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the two or more Media Gateways (MGWs) are combined network nodes, each combined network node comprising a Media Gateway (MGW) and a Signaling Gateway (SGW).

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the two or more network nodes are combined network nodes, each of which comprise a Media Gateway (MGW) and a Signaling Gateway (SGW).

24. (Currently Amended) A method, in a communication network employing a network control plane and a connectivity plane, of routing a connectivity plane message to a mobile terminal that can be reached via two or more MGWs of the connectivity

plane, the connectivity plane message being routed separately from an associated network control plane message, the method comprising the steps of:

- determining a geographic location of the mobile terminal, with respect to the two or more MGWs of the connectivity plane;

- receiving routing information associated with a Mobile Switching Center Server (MSCS) of the network control plane to which the mobile terminal is attached;

- using [[the]] positional information of the mobile terminal to choose one of the MGWs of the connectivity plane via which the connectivity plane message is routed to the mobile terminal; and

- routing the connectivity plane message to the mobile terminal via the chosen MGW of the connectivity plane.

25. (Previously Presented) A network component , in a communication network comprising a network control plane and a connectivity plane, for routing a connectivity plane message to a mobile terminal which can be reached via two or more Media Gateways (MGWs), the network component comprising:

- a first interface for receiving positional information indicating geographical location of the mobile terminal and routing information associated with an MSC Server to which the mobile terminal is attached;

- a determination component for determining, based on the positional information, one of the two or more MGWs via which the connectivity plane message is to be routed to the mobile terminal; and

- a second interface for routing the connectivity plane message to the mobile terminal via the determined one of the two or more MGWs.

26. (Previously Presented) The network component of claim 25, further comprising a component for extracting the positional information from the routing information.